

REMARKS:

Claims 1, 4, 5 and 6 are pending, of which claim 1 is an independent claim.

Certified Copy of the Japanese Applications

This application is a national stage application of PCT/JP03/8170. Therefore, copies of the Japanese applications were supposed to be sent the PTO from the WIPO. However, Applicants will provide certified copies of the Japanese applications as soon as Applicants obtain them.

Objections to the Drawings

Applicants are submitting a sheet of corrected drawings showing Figures 15 and 16.


Claim Rejections under 35 USC §§102 and 103

Claims 1, 4/1, 5/1 and 6/5/1 were rejected under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Giesler (US Patent No. 5,413,309). Claims 2, 4/2, 5/2 and 6/5/2 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Giesler in view of Modrin (US Patent No. 3,186,436).

Applicants thank the Examiner for the indication of allowability of claim 3. Claim 1 as amended above includes the limitations of claims 2 and 3 and thus should now be allowable. Claims 2 and 3 have been cancelled accordingly. Claims 4-6 depend directly and indirectly from claim 1 and thus should be allowable.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: February 10, 2009


Tadashi Horie, Reg. No. 40,437
Attorney for Applicant(s)

BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE
PO BOX 10395
CHICAGO, IL 60610
(312) 321-4200